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~~amounts of powdered fillers, fibers, absorbents, or super absorbents[.]~~

- e) from about 3% to about 12% plasticizer[.]
- f) from 0% to about 6% tackifier with softening point below about 37°C[.]
- g) from 0% to about 25% NaCMC with degree of substitution above 1.0[.]
- h) from 0% to about 6% powdered cellulose[.]

wherein the probe tack force in grams is in the range of 400-750, saline absorbency is in the range of about 500-5000g/m²/d, and tensile strength is in the range of about 500-3500 g/cm².

REMARKS

The pending Office Action has been carefully considered. 23 claims are pending in this application, numbered 1-23. There are three independent claims, numbered 1, 16 and 20. Claims 2-15 depend on claim 1, claims 17-19 depend on claim 16, and claims 21-23 depend on claim 20. Claims 1, 2, 16 and 20 have been amended.

The present invention as provided in newly amended independent claims 1, 16 and 20 is a hydrocolloid adhesive composition for medical use having the listed compositions and recited ranges. The composition provides for a combination of materials which yield the probe tack forces, saline absorbency and tensile strengths claimed.

The references cited by the Examiner do not anticipate nor render the present invention as claimed obvious when applied singly or in combination.

In particular, the Examiner rejected many of the earlier claims as unpatentable over Collier ('706) in view of Sorensen ('369).

Collier discloses an elastic composition which can be used as a pressure sensitive adhesive for diapers. The components of Collier's composition includes 50-80% of styrene block copolymers. The present invention as presently claimed in newly amended claims 1, 16 and 20 provide for the components to add up to 100% of the composition. These independent claims have the styrene block copolymer at 9.5% to 16% by weight. Accordingly, Collier makes no suggestion of the presently claimed composition. Also, there is no suggestion of the combination of these components to yield the characteristics of probe tack, saline absorbency and tensile strength claimed.

Sorensen teaches the use of a sealing material for use in connection with ostomy

devices. The tackifier resin presently claimed in newly amended claims 1, 16 and 20 is not suggested or taught by Sorensen, alone or in combination with Collier. Sorensen teaches a terpene tackifier resin or a dicyclopentadiene based tackifier resin (column 6, lines 11-21). The present invention requires a polyvinylcyclohexane tackifying resin having a softening point below 37°C.

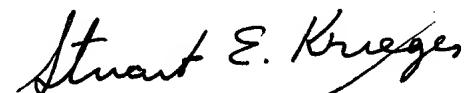
Sorensen teaches a terpene or pentadiene tackifier resin at 5-50%, and most preferred at 19-20%. The claimed tackifier resin at the percentage weight and softening point claimed is not taught by the references cited as a component in the claimed composition.

The remaining reference cited, Cameron ('899), does not teach the features necessary to be combined with Collier and/or Sorensen to render the present invention obvious. Cameron relates to a hot melt adhesive composition in pellet form. The components of the present invention combined as claimed is an adhesive having the properties claimed for medical use. This claimed composition is not taught by Cameron, alone or in combination with the remaining cited references.

Claims 1 and 2 have been amended to resolve the Examiner's objections under 35 US 112 and 103.

A clean copy of the amended claims is included in the attached Appendix. Allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited in the US mails as first class mailing addressed to Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

on Apr. 16, 2001
Signed by Stuart E. Krieger